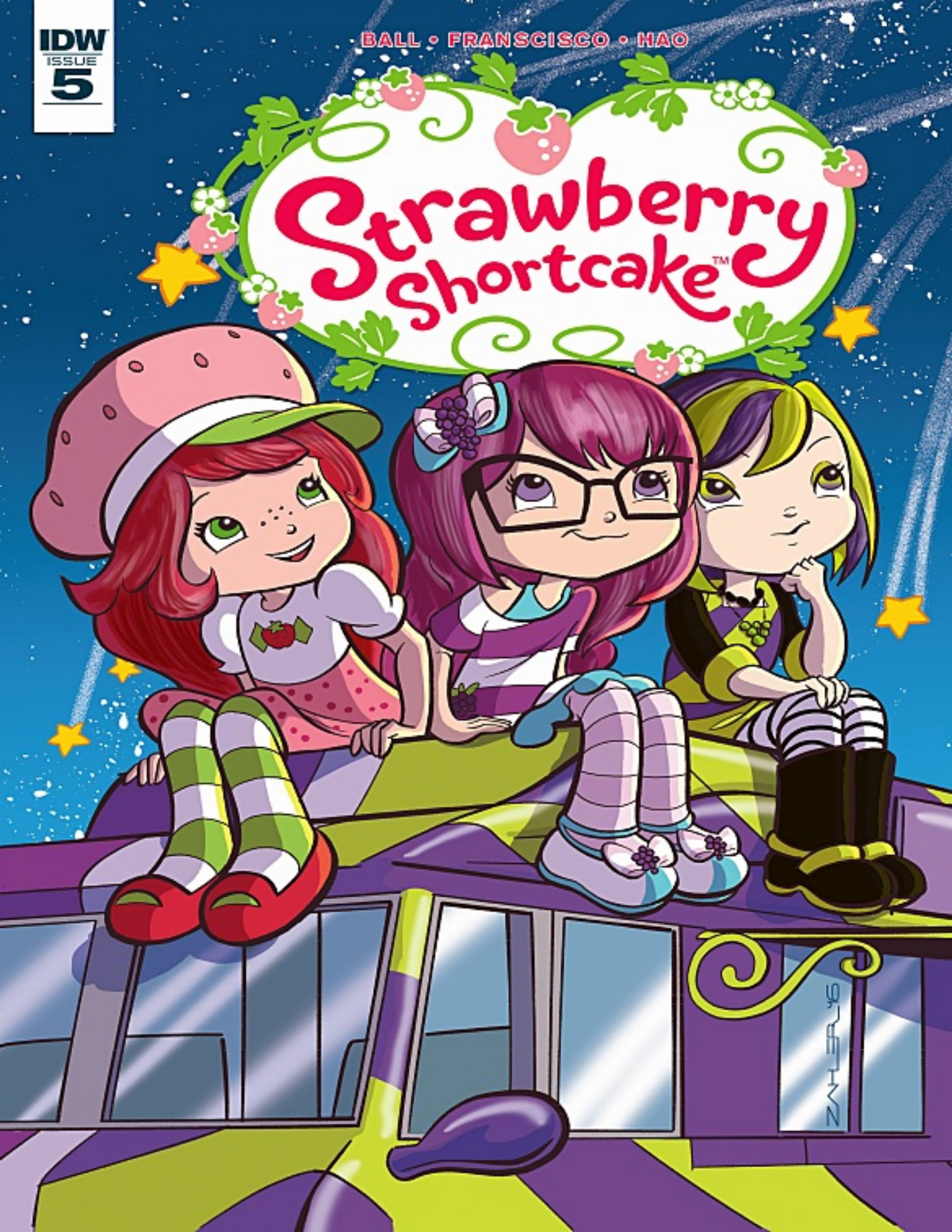
IDW
ISSUE
5
BALL • FRANSCISCO • HAO
Strawberry Shortcake™

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Food Truck Frenzy

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ART BY: Tina Franscisco
COLORS BY: Mae Hao
LETTERS BY: Christa Miesner

Summer Dance Bummer

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Special thanks to Craig Herman and the entire Iconix team for their help and support.

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Food Truck Frenzy
Written by: Georgia Ball
Art by: Tina Franscisco
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MUFFINS ARE HERE!
OH, THANK YOU, STRAWBERRY!
I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE YOUR TO-GO ORDER, SWEET—YOU AND SOUR USUALLY MAKE YOUR OWN MUFFINS.
BAKING? NOW? NOT HAPPENING, NO WAY.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME BECAUSE WE'RE LEAVING BERRY BITTY CITY.
YOU'RE WHAT?

SUCH? NOT FOREVER.
SMK
FOR A WEEKEND. WE'RE GOING TO PORT ORCHARD.
I KNOW PORT ORCHARD! THAT'S WHERE ALL OF THE GOOD GRANOLA COMES FROM.
AND IT'S WHERE THE ANNUAL FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL IS!
FOOD TRUCK OWNERS SHARE A SPECIAL BOND.
EVERY YEAR WE GET TOGETHER AND CATCH UP, SHARE IDEAS, LEARN NEW RECIPES...
HEY, SWEET! REMEMBER THAT TIME WE CONVINCED "GRILLED CHEESE TO-GO" THAT LIMBURGER WAS THE HOT FOODIE TREND THEY COULDN'T MISS?
HOW COULD I FORGET? YOU COULD SMELL THEM FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FESTIVAL.
SOUNDS LIKE FUN.
OH, IT IS!
EXCEPT FOR THIS ONE THING...

WHAT?
WE ALWAYS HAVE THIS FRIENDLY COMPETITION TO SEE WHO CAN PASS OUT THE MOST ICE CREAM SUNDAES.
THE WINNER GETS TO HOLD ON TO THE TROPHY UNTIL THE NEXT TIME WE MEET UP—
—AND THEN THE NEXT WINNER TAKES IT!
YOU GET BRAGGING RIGHTS FOR A WHOLE YEAR—
IT'S A LOVELY TROPHY.
—AAAND WE'VE NEVER WON.
IT ALMOST MAKES ME NOT WANT TO GO.
BUT YOU'RE BOTH SO CREATIVE! THERE MUST BE A REASON YOU'RE NOT WINNING—
SOMETHING YOU'RE JUST NOT SEEING...
IF WE COULD SEE IT WE WOULD HAVE FIXED IT, BY NOW.
MAYBE YOU NEED SOMEONE TO HELP YOU LOOK!
OH, COULD YOU? WE'D BE SO GRATEFUL!
I THINK THE BERRY BITTY CAFE CAN GET BY WITHOUT ME FOR A FEW DAYS.
I GUESS I CAN PUT UP WITH A FEW SUGGESTIONS...

"I CAN PUT UP WITH ANYTHING IF IT GETS ME THAT TROPHY."
ARE YOU SURE THAT WAS THE RIGHT TURN?
OH! I THOUGHT YOU WERE ASKING IF IT WAS A RIGHT TURN.
CAN WE GET THIS RIGHT? I DO NOT WANT TO END UP AT THAT CONVENIENCE STORE THAT SMELLS LIKE ROTTEN PEARS AGAIN.
GET THIS RIGHT OR GET THIS LEFT?
AAARRGGHHH!
SWEET! WHERE DID YOU HIDE THE BREAD?
I PUT IT WHERE IT WOULD BE EASIER TO FIND.
IF IT WAS EASY TO FIND, I WOULDN'T BE ASKING WHERE IT WAS!
Annual FOODTRUCK FESTIVAL
SWEET AND SOUR GRAPES ARGUED ALL THE WAY TO PORT ORCHARD...
HOW CAN THEY POSSIBLY WORK AS A TEAM?
BURGER

IS THAT PREP ALMOST DONE?
ALMOST...
WE'RE OPEN FOR BUSINESS!
"AND TAKING ORDERS..."
NO, I CAN'T MAKE YOU A TACO BECAUSE WE'RE NOT A TACO TRUCK.
CAN YOU TRY READING THE MENU NEXT TIME? THAT WOULD BE SUPER HELPFUL.
THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK TO A CUSTOMER!
CUSTOMER SERVICE MIGHT BE THE PROBLEM...
BUT I ALWAYS TAKE THE ORDERS!
EXACTLY!
WE'RE SWITCHING THINGS UP.
BUT MY PANCAKES ARE HALF-DONE...

AN HOUR LATER...
IS THIS IT? WHY AM I RUNNING OUT OF ORDERS?
·ORDERS·
I'LL SEE WHAT'S HOLDING UP THE LINE.
CAN WE PLEASE GO OVER THIS ONE MORE TIME?
YOU SAID YOU WANTED MUSTARD ON THE SIDE AND APPLES ON THE GYRO—
OH! SORRY! THAT WAS THE OTHER WAY AROUND. WASN'T IT?
MAYBE WE SHOULD START OVER...
¡GASP!
I MAY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE HASTY WITH MY LAST SUGGESTION...
THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER REASON WE'RE NOT MOVING ANY SUNDAES...
MAYBE IT'S THE MENU?
·MENU··
APPLE PIE PANCAKES
CUCUMBER MINT WATER
CHURRO
GYRO
SUNDAE SPECIALS
PIG & HONEY
TRIPPLE BERRY COMPOTE··
LET'S EXPERIMENT A LITTLE...

LATER...
I'VE GOT A COMPLAINER AT THE ORDER WINDOW. YOU'RE HANDLING IT.
I THOUGHT MY SUNDAE WOULD HAVE A FIG.
YOU SEE, THERE WAS A MENU CHANGE—
I COME TO THIS TRUCK EVERY YEAR. THERE'S ALWAYS A FIG ON TOP.
WE THOUGHT SOME IMPROVEMENTS MIGHT—
I SPECIFICALLY CAME TO THIS TRUCK FOR A FIG.
I'M RUNNING OUT OF IDEAS.
IF THE TWINS HAVE A SYSTEM THAT WORKS, WHY CAN'T THEY GET ENOUGH SUNDAE ORDERS TO WIN THE TROPHY?
ISN'T THAT TRUCKSTOP BEE FROM THE CAROB COUNTY BAKING COMPETITION?
WHAT'S HE UP TO?

HE'S GETTING WAY TOO CLOSE TO THE POWER LINES...
I'VE HAD A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH SABOTAGE.
IF HE THINKS HE'S GOING TO TAKE OUT THE COMPETITION, HE IS SO WRONG.
SSC
SSC01
I'LL HIDE IN HERE AND SURPRISE HIM...
BANG
SOMEBODY STUCK IN THERE?
SIGH!

I CAN'T SEEM TO GET THE DOOR OPEN...
HANG TIGHT WHILE I GIVE IT A TUG...
WHOOO AH!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THERE? RUN OUT OF PAPER TOWELS?
I WAS FOLLOWING A SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER...
THE "IN A JIFFY" TRUCK ASKED TRUCKSTOP BEE TO CHECK OUT A LEAK.
NO SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS AROUND SO FAR...
WELL, IF YOU SEE ANY...
JUST LET ME KNOW, I GUESS...

HI, STRAWBERRY! DID TRUCKSTOP FIND THE LEAK?
OH! YES... THANKS!
SURE THING! WE WOULDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO YOUR TRUCK.
NO... OF COURSE NOT...
El Jefe.
MENU
*TACOS
*NACHOS
*BURRITOS
SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
I THOUGHT I KNEW ALL ABOUT FOOD BECAUSE I RUN A CAFE, BUT THESE TRUCKS ARE A WHOLE DIFFERENT WORLD!
WELL, THERE'S PLENTY OF EXPERIENCED TRUCK OWNERS HERE TO LEARN FROM—
—AND THEY ALL HAVE THEIR OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS.
THEIR OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS...

A QUICK COSTUME CHANGE LATER...
SOME OF THESE OTHER TRUCKS KNOW HOW TO WIN THIS COMPETITION...
TIME FOR A LITTLE UNDERCOVER MYSTERY DINING!
NO ONE HERE KNOWS ME WELL ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE ME...
THE CHUCK WAGON
AREN'T YOU THAT GIRL FROM THE SWEET AND SOUR TRUCK?
UH... I THINK YOU'RE THINKING OF SOMEBODY ELSE...
NO-NO, I REMEMBER YOU. YOU HANDED ME MY NAPKIN.
I REMEMBER BECAUSE IT WAS A WHITE PAPER NAPKIN. YOU REALLY SHOULD CONSIDER USING RECYCLED MATERIALS.
WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT? IS THERE A MASQUERADE TONIGHT?
I'M SORRY, IT'S MY TURN TO ORDER...
THE CHUCK WAGON
HI, STRAWBERRY. WHAT CAN I GET YOU?

CAN I GET YOUR HOWDY-HODY SUNDAE SPECIAL?
COMING RIGHT UP.
CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR COMING TO THE CHUCK WAGON.
THE TWINS' SUNDAES ALWAYS LEAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING OUT, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
CRUNCH
HMMM...

ONE SUNDAE SPECIAL, PLEASE!
UM... ONE SUNDAE?
:BLECH: SUNDAE, PLEASE...

I'VE HAD ENOUGH SUGAR TO STAY AWAKE FOR DAYS—
—AND FEEL SICK ENOUGH TO GO STRAIGHT TO BED—
—BUT I THINK I KNOW WHAT THE TWINS ARE DOING WRONG.
JR

THEY ALL HAVE CEREAL ON THEM?
ALL OF THEM.
WHAT KIND OF CEREAL?
ALL KINDS! FRUITSY PEEBLES, WHEETIOS, GRANOLA GOBS, KAPTAIN KRISPIES...
ANYTHING THAT WILL GIVE IT A LITTLE CRUNCH!
IF THEY WANTED CEREAL ON THEIR ICE CREAM, WHY DIDN'T THEY JUST ASK FOR IT?
WELL, THERE'S THIS OTHER THING ABOUT PORT ORCHARD...
THEY JUST KIND OF EXPECT YOU TO KNOW.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT THIS? IT'S NOT LIKE CEREAL WAS ON THE GROCERY LIST...
WHAT DO WE HAVE?
I HAD CREAMY WHEAT FOR BREAKFAST?
I DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO HELP...
HERE. ALL-BRAN-SUPER-GRAIN-FIBER WITH EXTRA ROUGHAGE—
—IT'S ALL I'VE GOT.
ALL NEW BRAN
CREAMY WHEAT
THEY LOOK LIKE LITTLE TREE TWIGS.
THEY'LL HAVE TO DO.

LOOK AT THAT LINE!
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED...

I HAVE THIS WEIRD SENSATION I'LL REGRET THIS LATER, BUT I'M GETTING ANOTHER ONE.
AND FOR SOME REASON I FEEL REALLY GOOD AFTER I EAT ONE, EVEN ON THE INSIDE!

THE NUMBERS ARE IN, AND THIS YEAR'S SUPER SUNDAE TROPHY GOES TO—
—SWEET AND SOUR GRAPES!
Annual
FOOD TRUCK

I KNOW YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HUMBLE AND ALL, BUT WE EARNED THAT TROPHY.
BUT WE WOULD NEVER HAVE FIGURED IT OUT WITHOUT YOU, STRAWBERRY.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE TOO BUSY RUNNING THE TRUCK! ALL YOUR SUNDAES NEEDED WAS A LITTLE LOCAL FLAVOR—
—BUT YOU DIDN'T NEED ADVICE ABOUT RUNNING A FOOD TRUCK. YOU TWO REALLY ARE A GREAT TEAM!
WHO SAID WE WEREN'T? YOU MUST HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO MY SISTER.
SHE NEVER KNOWS WHAT SHE'S TALKING ABOUT.
BUT SOUR, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID—
WHATEVER YOU'RE ABOUT TO SAY I SAID, YOU SAID IT FIRST.
I CERTAINLY DID NOT! WAIT, WHAT?
SIGH THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG RIDE HOME.
End.

Summer Dance Bummer
Written by: Kristen Gudsnuk
Art by: Nico Peña
Colors by: Jordi Escuin
Letters by: Christa Miesner
OOH, THE DANCE HALL LOOKS AMAZING!
YEAH, WE'VE BEEN DECORATING ALL DAY.

I'VE BEEN PRACTICING MY DANCE MOVES ALL DAY! I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE DANCE!
AND I'VE BEEN WORKING ON MY NEWEST INVENTION—

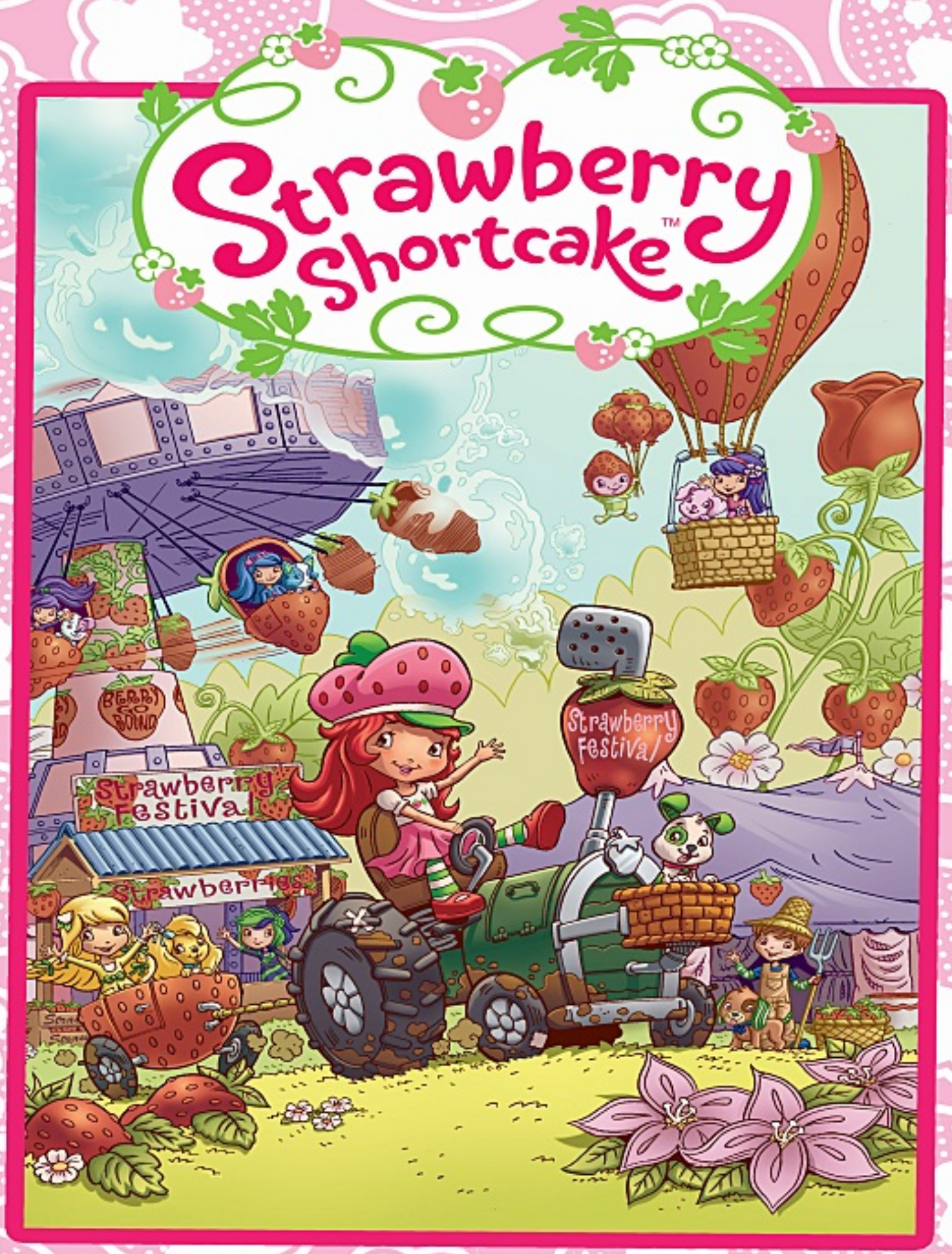
BEHOLD!

A FOG MACHINE?
NOT JUST ANY FOG MACHINE. LOOK! IT'S RAINBOW FOG!

LOOK AT ME! I'M DANCING ON CLOUDS! RAINBOW CLOUDS!
WOW!
I CALL THIS MOVE... THE UNICORN!
WAS THAT PART OF THE MOVE?
OW...
OW...
IT'S SPRAINED ALL RIGHT. DON'T PUT ANY PRESSURE ON YOUR ANKLE.

B-BUT THE DANCE!
NO. DANCING.
I BROUGHT YOU A SMOOTHIE.
THANKS, STRAWBERRY.
I FEEL SO GUILTY FOR HAVING FUN, WHEN POOR PLUM IS... OH JUST LOOK AT HER.
I'M NOT EVEN HAVING FUN.
CAN THIS EVEN BE CLASSIFIED AS A DANCE WITHOUT PLUM?
IF ONLY PLUM COULD DANCE WITH US, BUT THE DOCTOR SAID TO KEEP OFF HER BAD ANKLE!
KEEP OFF HER ANKLE... KEEP OFF HER ANKLE...
EUREKA! I'VE GOT IT!

AN INVENTION? AN ANKLE-FIXER?
ALMOST AS GOOD... A NEW DANCE!
HEY, PLUM!
DO YOU LIKE MY NEW DANCE?
WHAT'S IT CALLED?
THE BERRY HOP! PATENT PENDING.
COME ON, I'VE GOT YOU!
End.


Strawberry Shortcake™
BERRY GO ROUND
Strawberry Festival
Strawberry Festival
Strawberries

NEXT MONTH

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APPLE CIDER SCONES

Rain, rain, rain. Every dimple in my strawberry roof is a little puddle. On the first day, I thought it was a sweet pitter patter, but now it sounds like Plum Pudding is teaching a tap class on my head! Berrykin Bloom's field is a moist mud pie. Some of that mud has been sneaking into the cafe on everyone's feet. The mopping isn't fun, but I did like picking out a new umbrella when mine blew inside out. I went with pink polka dots and a green trim. I know, I know, very original, but the colors work for me!

I know that we need rain for the plumpest plums and the greenest gooseberries, but after three days of drizzle, I started to get a little crazy. One rude customer snapped her umbrella and sprayed my customers as well as my freshly-mopped floor. I wasn't the only one battling the rain. Lemon was spending her time battling wet hair frizz. Blueberry was hard at work drying and ironing pages and pages of her books.

None though were as affected by the rain as Tea Time Turtle. This was strange because where he came from was a land where showers were as frequent as flour in a bakery. Apple always said she'd never been anywhere quite so damp! And yet ever since the rain started, he'd been sitting on the windowsill for hours, tucked completely in his shell. This morning Apple burst into the cafe and declared "Tea Time is homesick!"

We decided since we couldn't bring Tea Time home, we'd have to bring home to Tea Time. I asked Apple whether she knew anything about the island he came from. She said that she only had part of a recipe for apple scones and an incomplete list of useful phrases from a book called "High Teas and After You's." I was able to fill in the gaps. I'm not sure whether our high tea was that high, but I made sure it wasn't low either! I used my fanciest teapot and a nice tablecloth. I put out all the hot scones, fresh from the oven, with butter and all my favorite jams.

I invited everyone over and left one seat open for our most distinguished, cutest guest. Apple got Tea Time out of his shell and he plodded through the door, his shell, dripping wet. When he saw what we had prepared, he got some pep in his step.

"It's bucketing down, isn't it Tea Time?" I said, remembering a useful phrase for talking about the weather. Tea Time smiled even more, and as we began to eat the scones, according to the book anyway, he was "a happy chappie."

RECIPE

This is one of the trickier recipes I make, but if you are up for a bit of a challenge and you like to get your little hands in a big bowl of flour, maybe you can have a little teatime treat as well. You can even use all whole wheat pastry flour if you want these to be a little healthier, but don't use regular whole wheat flour. Whole wheat pastry flour is your best friend when you want something healthy but still light and fluffy. We're trying to make light scones for teatime, not hard pucks for hockey.
If you are the Apple Dumplin' type, go for the extra apples. If you are more a raisin type of gal, go for that instead. Or if you're like me, leave them plain and load them up with strawberry jam and a little butter, hot out of the oven. They are good for breakfast, lunch, a snack, or to cheer up any turtle companions.

1 - 1/2 cup all purpose flour
1 - 1/2 cup whole wheat pastry flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
4 tablespoons cold butter (half a stick)
3 tablespoons honey
1/2 cup apple cider
1/2 cup buttermilk

Optional:
2 apples, peeled and diced by your assistant
or 1/2 cup raisins
1 egg (for egg wash)

1) Preheat oven to 450° F.
2) Completely mix the flours, the baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a large mixing bowl.
3) Mix the honey, cider, and buttermilk in another bowl. We'll get to them later.
4) Chop the butter up into small pieces, and add to the dry ingredients.
5) Now go wash your hands, or the next part is as yucky as a slug in a sorrel salad! Don't be shy, stick your hands in the flour bowl and go butter hunting! Every time you find a big chunk, rub it between your finger and thumbs. Sometimes we want perfectly smooth things when we are baking, but this is NOT one of those times. So as good as you are at this, don't rub them all away into nothing. You want gravelly bits of butter chunks at the end, and it doesn't matter that some chunks are a little bigger or smaller.
6) Pour almost all the liquid ingredients into the dry ingredients, keeping about 1/8th of a cup, and add the apples or raisins if you want them.
7) Mix with a big spoon. We do NOT want a smooth ball of dough. Instead we are looking for the two C's, crumbly and clumpy. We want to mix until we get one main ball just barely sticking together with crumbs around it. If it's not quite getting there, add more of the liquid ingredients a little bit at a time and try again. As lemon will tell you with her hair dye, it's berry easy to add it, but it's impossible to take it away.
8) Sprinkle some flour on a counter or a very large cutting board, and dump the ball of dough onto it. Then dust a little flour on top, and smoosh the ball down with your hands into a flat disc. Again, it's actually perfect if it's a little cracked but still holds together, better than it being wet.
9) Roll it just a little until it's flat and about an inch and a half thick.
10) Use your cookie cutter to cut out chubby little circles, and put them on a baking tray or cookie sheet.
11) You don't have to, but for a berry beautiful shine every time, beat an egg in a small bowl or mug until smooth, and add a splash of water or milk. If you have a pastry brush, lightly paint the top and sides of every scone. If you don't have one, do some finger painting instead.
12) Bake in center of oven for 14 minutes or until the tops are all golden brown. Have your assistant check on the oven and remove the scones to cool for a minute.

The scones will keep for a couple days in an airtight container, and they are good cold as well, but I love them when they are hot enough to melt a little butter, especially with jam.

That's all we have time for this month.
We'd love to hear from you!

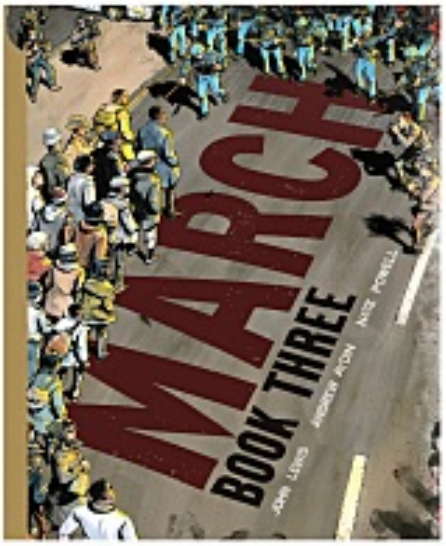
Send us your Shortcake selfies, well wishes, and baking recipes so we can print them! Make sure you mark any emails or letters with 'Okay To Print' somewhere.
Address is at the top of the previous page!

Having a Berry Fun Time,

David Hedgecock
Managing Editor

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Ted Adams here. I'm going to be your monthly guide through the IDW/Top Shelf checklist, pointing out our big hits and bringing your attention to some gems that you might otherwise miss.



As the calendar turns to August, we lead off this month with a book I'm extremely proud to be publishing through Top Shelf, ***March: Book 3***, written by **Congressman John Lewis** and **Andrew Aydin** and drawn by **Nate Powell**. We're also collecting all three volumes in a slipcase set.

There are five Wednesdays in August and we're launching a new "Creator Visions" title every week this month. August 3rd sees the return of ***The Adventures of Augusta Wind*** in a new series subtitled *The Last Story* by **J.M. DeMatteis** and **Vassilis Gogtzilas**.

On August 10th, **Brian Clevinger** and **Scott Wegener** bring us the latest Atomic Robo series, ***Atomic Robo and the Temple of Od***. Then, the third week of August, we launch ***Jackboot & Ironheel*** from creator **Max Milgate**. This one's a WWII tale that finds an R.A.F. shot down in Nazi Germany where he has to take on his biggest opponent yet—his own destiny!

James Kochalka's ***Superf*ckers Forever*** launches on August 24th in the first-ever *Superf*ckers* monthly comic book series. The last week of the month, we have an adaptation of **Jim Thompson's** ***The Killer Inside Me*** by **Devin Faraci** and **Vic Malhotra**. Thompson's character, Lou Ford, is one of the scariest characters in all of crime fiction. Get ready for a deep dive into the twisted mind of a serial killer who is also his town's deputy sheriff.

Teenage Mutant Nina Turtles Universe #1 is the start of an all-new series that will tie into our ongoing TMNT series. This issue has a main story by **Paul Allor**, **Tom Waltz**, and **Damian Couceiro** with a back-up story by **Kevin Eastman** and **Bill Sienkiewicz**.

Everyone's favorite monster returns in ***Godzilla: Rage Across Time***. Each issue will see Godzilla in a different time period and have a different creative team. Issue #1 finds Godzilla in feudal Japan and is by **Jeremy Robinson** and **Matt Frank**.

X-Files: Origins #1 explores the lives of Mulder and Scully before they were in the FBI. **Matthew Dow Smith** and **Jody Houser** share writing duties while **Chris Fenoglio** draws the story that follows a young Mulder as he investigates something strange happening on Martha's Vineyard. In a separate story, we find Dana Scully trying to find out who murdered her teacher in a tale illustrated by **Corin Howell**.

Jonathan Maberry edits our latest *X-Files* prose anthology, ***X-Files: Secret Agendas.*** The all-new stories are written by some of today's hottest mystery, thriller, science fiction and horror authors, including **George Ivanoff**, **Joe Harris**, **Nancy Holder**, **Jeffrey Mariotte** & **Marsheila Rockwell**, **Lois Gresh**, **Lucy A. Snyder**, and more!

elly: The Cartoonist America Turns To.

In next month's column I'm going to take a deep dive into the biggest publishing event we've ever done at IDW—**Hasbro's Revolution!** See you in thirty…

SON OF ULTRON